

Fairhaven Beautification Committee
Fairhaven, MA

May 8, 2014

In Attendance: Wayne Oliveira, Vicki Paquette, John Medeiros, Gary Lavalette, Beverly Rasmussen, Karen Vilandry, Ann Espindola.

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm

Mr.Oliveira read the minutes of the previous meeting.

RTE 6

Mr. Medeiros met with John Charbonneau regarding Route 6 and Main Street near The Seaport Inn. He asked that the DPW cleanup that area. Mr. Charbonneau gave him a form to fill out that is required when a request is made. Mr.Oliveira will fill out the form and return it to the DPW.

Mr. Lavalette brought a sample of flowers in a pot that he designed to put in the center islands on RT 6. MASS DOT requires that nothing be higher than 22" and may not be real live greenery. Mr. Lavalette brought 2 examples of ideas for the committee to see. Most committee members were not in favor of artificial flowers and would like to find other ideas of what can be placed in the planters.

The committee expressed that they would like more information in writing from someone at the State level as to what the rules and regulations are before the committee continues with this project. Ms. Vilandry offered a name of a contact she has at the MASS DOT that she feel might be helpful in getting the correct information. Mr. Oliveira will contact the person at MASS DOT to find out the information and requirements.

In the meantime Ms. Vilandry will contact Jane Howland of Howland Greenhouses to see what she would recommend for plantings to put in the pots that can withstand the intense heat and heavy traffic on RT 6.

Ms. Vilandry also expressed that she would like to see period type street lighting in that area similar to what they have on RT 18 in New Bedford. Mrs. Rasmussen said she would like to see more trees in that area and around town. The members all agreed this would be something that they would like to see also.

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COOKE PARK

Discussion was brought up regarding Cooke Memorial Park on Pilgrim Ave. and different ways to spruce up the park and make it more organized and a place that residents can sit and enjoy all that it has to offer. Currently there is a memorial to John Cooke, Joshua Slocum, a Japanese bench and a Japanese Peace Pole. Ideas were discussed to place the Peace Pole over at the Manjiro Museum and rearrange the Park to better accommodate the all the monuments. Ms. Vilandry will do some research regarding the park and how best to accomplish this task.

VETERANS PARK

Mr. Oliveira discussed ideas on how to better landscape Veteran's Park to memorialize each branch of the service and to make the park more visible to all people who travel over the bridge into Fairhaven. Discussion ensued on ways to make the park easier for families to pay tribute to our fallen soldiers. Mr. Medeiros will speak to the Veterans at his next meeting at the VFW to see if any of our US Veterans would like to be involved to help rehabilitate the park. Ms. Vilandry asked about the piece of land on the NW corner of Huttleston Ave and Main Street and if it was Town owed and if we possibly be able to utilize that as part of Veteran's Park. Cushman Park was also discussed as a possibility due to the fact that it is more accessible.

GRAFFITI

Mr.Oliveira discussed the idea of creating a system for residents to be able to report graffiti. Ideas were brought up to use an email or a phone number that residents can report the graffiti and then it would be reported to the proper authorities and be removed. The committee discussed drawing out a plan that could be presented to the Selectboard as to how this could be done. Currently there is nothing in place for anyone to report this to and Mr. Lavalette has been tackling much of the graffiti on his own time as a volunteer. Mr. Lavalette showed pictures of some of the graffiti that has been tagged in all areas of Fairhaven. M. Vilandry suggested speaking to the Police Department in New Bedford to find out who some of the vandals are and asking NBPD for some suggestions.

RESIGNATION

Mr. Mederios has asked for the member's acceptance in stepping down from the committee as he is involved in many other groups at the present time. He offered his help to the group on projects but cannot take on any lead roles.

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BIKE PATH

Mr. Lavalette said he would like to see more flowers along the bikepath. He has spoken to Mr. Charbonneau at the DPW on this issue and Mr. Charbonneau was in favor of having more wild flowers growing along the out edge of the grass along the Bike path. This would also cut down on the amount of grass the needs to be cut weekly. Mr. Lavalette will speak to the members of the BIKEWAY COMMITTEE to see if they, too, would be in favor of that idea.

PROJECTS

It was discussed that the Beautification Committee not take on too many projects at once and to have a member take on a lead role for certain projects and to create a plan to as to how to complete each project. This will better organize each task and avoid any miscommunications. That person would be responsible for organizing the project and report back to the committee on the progress and to get the committees approval before moving forward.

The committee also discussed working with the Improvement Associations in town (FIA, NFIA, EFIA, and WIIA) to help accomplish some of the tasks, as most of these groups have their own Beautification committees.

Meeting adjourned at 8:53pm

Next meeting will be on June 12, 2014 in the Fairhaven Fire Station meeting room

Respectfully submitted,

Vicki Paquette